



# The Webb County Link

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## Important Dates

- \* 7/4 Independence Day County Offices Closed
- \* 7/8 Jury Duty
- \* 7/8 Commissioners Court Meeting
- \* 7/10 New Employee Orientation
- \* 7/22 Jury Duty
- \* 7/22 Commissioners Court Meeting

**Happy  
Independence  
Day!**

## Fire Department Awarded \$1.5 Million



Judge Danny Valdez and the Commissioners Court were joined by State Representative Richard Peña Raymond as they held a press conference to announce the recent awarding of \$1.5 million in state funds to the Webb County Fire & EMS Department. These much-needed funds will be used for the construction of a new permanent fire station as well as to purchase equipment for the firefighters. Fire Chief Rick Rangel looked forward to implementing these funds for the benefit of the residents of the rural areas. The fire department covers and protects an area of over 3,000 square feet of unincorporated land.

## 19th Annual Fishing Derby

Judge Danny Valdez hosted his 19th Annual Fishing Derby for special education students from LISD and UISD on Saturday, June 29th. The event has grown by leaps and since it's inception 19 years ago. With the joining of children from Nuevo Laredo, the event has become an international event. Besides fishing for catfish, other activities enjoyed by the students and their families included dancing, games, and delicious food.





## A Vision For Education

Since even before taking office, Commissioner Jaime Canales has always worked for the education and enrichment of the children of Webb County. It is the vision in investing in the future that has led to the Third Annual Educational Summer Camp program. This year's theme was "Discovering Our World" and it allowed children to get a jump-start on their learning with fun activities, lessons on respect, as well visits from Catherine Kazen, from the Laredo Animal Protection Society, who took several types of birds for the children to interact with.



## Taking An Active Role In Government



The Webb County Commissioners Court recognized four LISD high school seniors who spent the first week of summer vacation attending the 2013 American Legion Boys State Summer Leadership Program. Boys State is a program that educates future leaders about government, civics, and patriotism in a "learn by doing" environment. The young men were chosen based on their academics, social skills, extracurricular activities, and their interest in the Boys State Program. During the weeklong program, the young men attended workshops developing civic leadership, pride in American citizenship, interest in government, and a full understanding of American traditions.

## Larga Vista Face-Lift & Summer Events

The Larga Vista Community Center was recently give a new paint job to liven up its colors and breathe new life into the building. Center Director Greg Araiza extended his thanks to Building Maintenance Director Gilbert Garza and his entire department for the work they invested in painting the building and parking lot.



Before



After

Not slowing down for the summer, the Center also held various events to engage the community, including elderly beauty days, and oral health tips. Among the events was the Center's Summer Camp for kids

to enjoy a fun and safe environment. The Summer Camp, an annual highlight, allows the kids the opportunity to go to the movies, arcades, and splash parks while staying out of trouble.



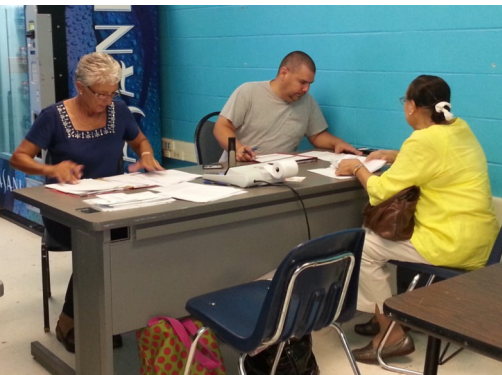


## El Aguila Acquires New Buses

The Webb County Community Action Agency's El Aguila Rural Transportation program is pleased to announce that it has added four (4) new vehicles into its fleet. These vehicles will be replacing older and/or high maintenance vehicles currently in its fleet. Three of the buses (14-passenger with double wheelchair occupancy) were acquired through a State of Good Repair funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation and administered by Texas Department of Transportation. The County of Webb was awarded \$210,000.00 and these (3) buses will either aid and/or replace current vehicles currently assigned to the bus routes along Highway 359 area and the program's demand response services. The fourth and final bus (a 24 passenger with double wheelchair occupancy) was acquired through a State Rollover funds from the last fiscal year (2011-12). El Aguila Rural Transportation program, being good stewards of their grants, managed to work within their budget and were able to save and rollover \$94,500.00 in state grant funds. Approximately \$78,000.00 was appropriated for the purchase of a vehicle and the remainder was allocated for program operations. This bus will be used to aid and or replace the current Rio Bravo and El Cenizo fixed route fleet. Over the past several years, El Aguila Rural Transportation Program staff has managed to research, develop, acquire and administer grants for buses using 100 of grant funds without the use of any local match and no financial impact to the county's General fund.



## Weatherization Assistance



During the first Commissioners Court meeting in June, Commissioner Jaime Canales sponsored an item to approve the use of county community centers by the Community Action Corporation of South Texas (CACOST). The agency's goal was to use the community centers to provide much-needed weatherization and home rehabilitation to low-income residents. CACOST are providing the staff that is accepting, reviewing, and qualifying the applicants for the over \$300,000 in funding from the Department of Energy. The program is designed to help low-income residents control their energy costs through the installation of weatherization materials and consumer education. One of the first community centers to receive the CACOST team was the Larga Vista Community Center. The center had a total of 54 community members show up and apply for the Weatherization Assistance Program.

## County Attorney's Event Round-Up

County Attorney Marc Montemayor recently presented Lemurs baseball tickets to the Sisters and children of Sacred Heart Children's Home. Called the "Kick-off to Summer", the tickets gave the children an opportunity to enjoy a Lemurs game, the large play-scape area and the exciting post-game fireworks.



Also in June, and as a continued devotion to children and families, Mr. Montemayor held the second Drug Court Program graduation ceremony of the year. The graduation ceremony honored the parents who had gone through and successfully passed the course and reunited with their families.